

Message Text

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ORIGIN CU-04

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USINT DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 116004

E.O. 1165 GDS

TAGS: OEXC, BEXP, SY

SUBJECT: CU/CP: DAMASCUS INTERNATIONAL FAIR - CULTURAL
PRESENTATION

REF : DAMASCUS 1013

1. ALTHOUGH LEAD TIME SHORT, DEPT (CU/CP) WILL DO BEST
PROVIDE PERFORMING GROUP FOR FAIR.

2. WOULD APPRECIATE ANY POST SUGGESTIONS AS TO SIZE
AND TYPES OF ARTISTIC GROUP IT THINKS MOST APPROPRIATE.
WHAT TYPE AUDIENCE DOES POST WANT TO ATTRACT--GENERAL
FAIRGOERS, ELITE, STUDENTS? SHOULD CLASSICAL MUSIC OR
DANCE ENSEMBLE BE RULED OUT?

3. ADVISE NUMBER OF PROGRAM DAYS AND NUMBER OF PERFOR-
MANCES NEEDED; ALSO MAXIMUM-SIZE GROUP POST BELIEVES
FEASIBLE IN TERMS OF HOTEL SPACE, LOGISTICS, AVAILABLE
STAGE FACILITIES. WILL PERFORMANCES BE GIVEN OUT-
SIDE AS WELL AS INDOORS? ARE NAME PROFESSIONAL STARS
DESIRABLE OR WOULD QUALITY UNIVERSITY GROUP BE ACCEPTABLE?

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4. CU/CP TENTATIVELY THINKING IN TERMS OF SMALL PROFES-

SIONAL JAZZ GROUP (POSSIBLY WITH VOCALIST) AS CONTRAST
TO FOLKLORIC ENSEMBLES WHICH WE UNDERSTAND SEVERAL OTHER
COUNTRIES SENDING. THIS WOULD BE

DISTINCTLY AMERICAN ATTRACTION AND WOULD HAVE MINIMAL
THEATER STAGING REQUIREMENTS. AS ANOTHER POSSIBILITY
WE ALSO CONSIDERING COLLEGIATE-LEVEL GROUP WHICH DOES
POPULAR AND SHOW SONGS WHICH MAY RPT MAY BE IN AREA AT
TIME OF FAIR.

5. UNDERSTAND BEST DATES ARE AUG. 1-20 BUT THAT ONLY
AUG. 1-10 POSSIBLE IF THEATER REQUIRED. CONFIRM.

6. FYI: ALTHOUGH DEPT AWARE THAT THREE AMERICAN
ATTRACTIONS HAVE BEEN INVITED PERFORM BAALBECK FESTIVAL
THIS SUMMER, HARKNESS BALLET IS NOT RPT NOT ARTISTICALLY
ENDORSED BY DEPT'S DANCE PANEL AND JAZZ ARTIST CHARLIE
MINGUS AND SINGER JOAN BAEZ NOT SUITABLE FOR OTHER
REASONS. END FYI. KISSINGER

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